

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

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FM AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2938
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

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BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS FG
SUBJECT: LICENSING OF SHRIMP BOATS

1. DURING CALL BY CONSUL ON DIRECTOR AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
OF PECHERIES INTERNATIONALES DE GUYANE FRANCAISE (PIDEG) PAUL
MAGNAN, MAGNAN OUTLINED THE SITUATION IN FRENCH GUIANA AS FOLLOWS:
(1) THERE ARE CURRENTLY 50 U.S. FLAG VESSELS OWNED BY SAHLMAN
SEAFOODS, INC., LICENSED AND FISHING OFF COAST OF FRENCH GUIANA,
(2) 11 U.S. BOATS OF THE VERSAGGI FLEET, INC., (3) 2 PIDEG AND
10 JAPANESE BOATS - FOR A TOTAL OF 73
- AND (4) ONE WELL-
EQUIPPED PROCESSING PLANT.

2. MAGNAN ESTIMATES THERE COULD BE AS MANY AS 90 BOATS SHARING THE
ALLOTTED FISHING TIME AND STILL BE PROFITABLE. THE TWO MAIN PROBLEMS
ACCORDING TO MAGNAN, ARE HAVING BOATS' MASTERS OBTAIN FRENCH
LICENSES AND NOT FISH, THUS CAUSING SERIOUS TIME SHARING PROB-
LEMS; THE OTHER IS ASSURING THAT BOATS FISHING IN FRENCH WATERS
SUPPORT THE EMBRYONIC PROCESSING INDUSTRY THERE BY PROCESSING
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CATCH IN LOCAL PROCESSING PLANT(S). TO PROTECT THE PROCESSING
INDUSTRY, MAGNAN BELIEVED IT ESSENTIAL TO COORDINATE CATCH WITH
CAPABILITIES OF PROCESSING INDUSTRY. HE NOTED THAT BOATS SUCH AS
THE LIMBO QUEEN, THE LORI-L, THE LUCKY STRIKE AND THE PAPA CHARLES
ARE EXAMPLES OF NUISANCE LICENSED VESSELS THAT HAVE NOT FISHED
IN FRENCH GUIANA AND ARE PORTED IN TRINIDAD. CONSEQUENTLY OTHER
LICENSED BOATS ARE UNABLE TO DISTRIBUTE THE DAYS ALLOTTED TO

THESE BOATS.

3. MAGNAN SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED THESE MATTERS WITH SAHLMAN AND PLANNED FURTHER TALKS WITH HIM IN PARIS ON 29 OR 30 APRIL PRIOR TO THEIR GOING ON TO BRUSSELS. HE WENT TO GREAT PAINS TO EXPRESS UNDERSTANDING OF USG POSITION. HE SAID HE KNEW IT COULD NOT DISCRIMINATE BETWEEN U.S. FLAG VESSELS, BUT HOPED USG UNDERSTOOD THE PROBLEM POSED BY BOATS SUCH AS LUCKY STRIKE, ETC., MENTIONED FOREGOING PARA. RETURNING TIME AND TIME AGAIN TO HIS THEME THAT PROCESSING INDUSTRY MUST BE COORDINATED WITH AND PROTECTED, HE NOTED THAT IN FRENCH GUIANA THE FISHING INDUSTRY PROVIDED BADLY NEEDED EMPLOYMENT AND TO FURTHER EMPHASIZE HIS POINT HE SAID ONE COULD DEPEND UPON HAVING A STABLE SUPPLY FROM CAYENNE WHILE "GEORGETOWN IS UNCERTAIN."

4. MAGNAN SAID HE WELCOMED THE VISIT OF HARVEY BULLIS, DIRECTOR SOUTHEAST FISHING LAB - MIAMI, DONALD YELLMAN FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT, AND WILLIAM UTZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL SHRIMP CONGRESS, AND HOPED THAT SUCH U.S. DELEGATIONS WOULD HAVE A GOOD INFLUENCE.

5. REQUEST: POST WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING COPY OF ANY REPORTS FILED BY THE DELEGATION OF BULLIS, ET AL.
ROBINSON

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